WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Petitions Against Air India Management

1900. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 419 writ petitions are pending in several courts in India filed by Air India employees against the Air India Management;

(b) if so, whether it conveys collapse of administrative machinery, high-handedness, lack of transparency in the decision making process and arbitrary use of power and authority by Air India officials; and

(c) the measures taken by the Air India Management to curb abusive use of power and authority by high officials, to ensure that employees discontent and grievance is redressed and misuse of power with malafide intentions curbed and to ensure employee satisfaction and improved productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 95 Writ Petitions pending in the various High Courts filed by Air India employees against the Air India Management. Most of the Writ Petitions relate to non-promotion (supersession)/dismissal/ removal. The dismissal/removal are due to employees committing misconduct of smuggling, theft, habitual long absenteeism, misappropriation, fraud etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Entry of Private Airlines in International Sector

1901. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private airlines were allowed to expand their international

operations to more destinations including services to South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC);

(b) if so, the details including private airlines and destinations allowed as on today;

(c) whether steps will be taken to allow national carriers (Indian Airlines and Air India) to induct capacity by expanding their fleet renewal programmes to meet long term capacity needs on international routes;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether competent authority will postpone the sanction given to private airlines till national carriers strengthen their fleet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has presently permitted private airlines to operate to SAARC countries against unutilized entitlements of the Indian side subject to the provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreement. On the basis of their requests, Jet Airways and Air Sahara have so far been designated for operating to Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh. Both have since commenced operations to Sri Lanka (Colombo) and Nepal (Kathmandu).

(c) to (d) Both Air India and Indian Airlines have inducted aircraft on lease to expand their fleet. The fleet acquisition plan of Indian Airlines has already been approved at the PIB level. Air India Charters Limited, a subsidiary company of Air India, have submitted a project report for acquisition of 18 aircrafts. Air India has also floated tender for its additional fleet requirement. The two airlines would be strengthened by extending support towards their fleet acquisition plan subject to the guidelines of the Government for public investment. However, the decision to permit private airlines to fly to SAARC countries is not linked to the fleet expansion plans of Air India/Indian Airlines.

Landing Rights for Foreign Airlines

1902. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign airlines which have been given landing rights by India in cities other than International gateways;